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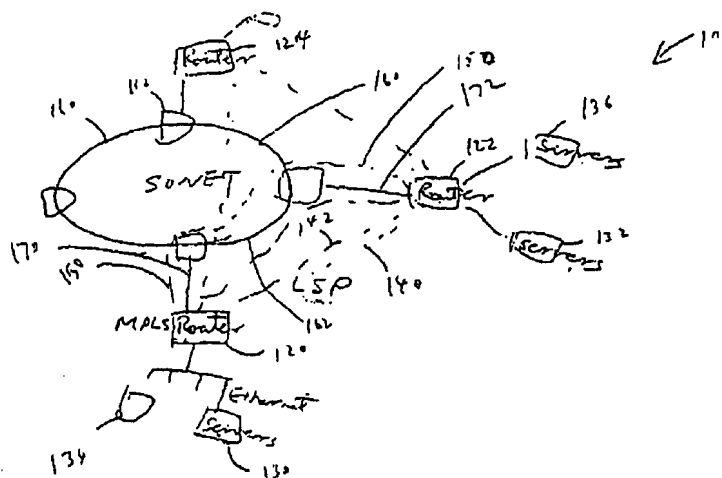
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD OF BINDING MPLS LABELS TO VIRTUALLY CONCATENATED SONET/SDH
TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS



(57) Abstract: A system and method of binding MPLS labels to virtually concatenated SONET/SDH transport connections is provided. A system and method of binding MPLS labels to nxVT connections is provided and includes (1) classifying packets, and (2) mapping packets with a same forward equivalence class to a same nxVT connection. In a further embodiment, the mapping includes: (a) associating a certain bandwidth of a connection between an external router (124) and an add-drop multiplexer (112), between a source node and the destination node, and (b) creating an nxVT connection between the source node and the destination node, thereby creating a label switch path (140, 142) between the source node and the destination node. In another embodiment, a system and method of binding MPLS labels to nxVT connections is also provided and includes mapping packets with the same MPLS label to the same nxVT connection.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 370/401 ; 709/200

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 370/401, 709/200

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,034,964 A (FUKUSHIMA et al.) 07 MARCH 2000, ALL	1-9
A	US 6,055,561 A (FELDMAN et al.) 25 APRIL 2000, ALL	1-9



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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